



## STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING

**September 13, 2021**  
**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
 Held Via Videoconference

### MINUTES

#### **Participating Members:**

Eric Ford  
 Dr. Shameka Stanford  
 Lajan Cephas  
 Sgt. Kathy Estrada  
 Michelle L. Farr  
 Derrell Frazier  
 Lynette Holmes  
 Quishaun Holmes  
 Senator Cory McCray  
 Shannon McFadden  
 Heidi Rochon  
 Joe Rossow  
 Dr. Jonathan Shepherd, M.D.  
 Dr. Kenneth Waters  
 Jillian White  
 Laura Wilt

#### **Staff:**

Jessica Wheeler  
 Christina Drushel-Williams  
 Bill Harper  
 William Jernigan  
 Chris Miele

#### **I. Welcome & Roll Call**

Chris Miele called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

## **II. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Eric Ford directed members to the consent agenda that was distributed prior to the meeting. Hearing no additions or corrections, Mr. Ford assumed a motion and the agenda was summarily approved as presented.

## **III. Compliance Monitoring Updates**

Bill Harper provided members with an update on remaining compliance and court holding facility site visits. Mr. Harper also mentioned we are nearing the final data collection period which is September 30, 2021 and the overall number of youth being detained in facilities is down from previous years. This is due to the pandemic and law enforcement issuing more citations versus bringing children to secure facilities. Also, the state has received its FY 21 compliance determination and Maryland was found to be in compliance with the three core requirements of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act.

## **IV. Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Updates**

William Jernigan shared that he is continuing to provide training and technical assistance to various community stakeholders. Recent awareness opportunities include engagements with law enforcement agencies in Anne Arundel County and Maryland's Eastern Shore, educators in Prince George's County, and others. Upcoming opportunities will be provided to Local Management Boards, Local Care Teams, and grassroots organizations.

The next R/ED Subcommittee meeting will take place in early October 2021. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss a potential statewide diversion pilot led by Lead4Life, a current recipient of Title II funding. The goal of this effort will be to address R/ED, divert youth from the juvenile justice system, implement youth development programming, and provide support/services to families.

Mr. Jernigan also shared with SAG members that he was recently selected to participate on a planning committee for OJJDP's R/ED Certificate program and that the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's National R/ED Conference is now scheduled to take place virtually instead of in-person (Louisville, KY) in November 2021.

## **V. Membership**

Jessica Wheeler provided updates to the group with respect to current vacancies and ongoing recruitment efforts. The current round of recruitment has yielded several candidates. Chris Miele emphasized that SAG membership must include at least 20% youth, and three of those youth must have current or prior justice system involvement.

Members were thanked and encouraged to continue their recruitment efforts.

## VI. Old / New Business

### A. Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) Updates

Eric Ford and Jessica Wheeler gave JJRC updates to the group. The Council is meeting regularly to discuss youth charged as adults. A vote on the proposal to end direct file / all automatic charging of youth as adults was held at the most recent meeting.

The Council's final report is due to the Governor and General Assembly on October 1, 2021.

Shared links:

- Youth charged as adults fact sheet:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gWvc8tHbp0LIJQkT3cFc-Ul1aHpNUHQ0FPykOeihbvE/edit>
- Department of Legislative Services - Juvenile Justice Reform Council Page  
<http://dls.maryland.gov/policy-areas/juvenile-justice-reform-council>
- Department of Juvenile Services - Juvenile Justice Reform Council Page  
<https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/Juvenile-Justice-Reform-Council.aspx>

### B. Agency Updates

#### 1. Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) -

Lynette Holmes shared that DJS is working to combat COVID-19 in DJS facilities by utilizing testing, isolation, and vaccine administration where applicable. To date a total of four DJS facilities have been equipped with isolation areas. Low population counts are helping the agency to manage the spread and containment of COVID-19 in DJS facilities.

Planning for the Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP) continues. The JSEP Board has held two meetings to date. Open to the public, meeting recordings and materials as well as the JSEP overview and Board member bios are available for review here: <https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/about-us/JESP.aspx>

Senator McCray inquired about educational administration in juvenile justice and what prompted the last transfer of administration from DJS back to MSDE. Lynette Holmes shared that utilization of an educational board for juvenile justice populations and settings is new for Maryland and remarked upon the qualifications of those recently appointed to serve on the JSEP Board.

#### 2. Department of Human Services (DHS) -

- a) DHS in partnership with Maryland's State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) will host a statewide training on Thursday, September 23, 2021. The *Coordination & Transition of Educational Services for Children Placed in Foster Care or Juvenile Services* will be a virtual interactive training. This training is intended to help professionals in the

child welfare, juvenile services, and educational systems understand agency roles and responsibilities, identify resources and discuss best practices to enhance the coordination of educational services including post-secondary education for children/youth in state care. The target audience for the event includes Local DSS Staff, Local Education Agency Foster Care Liaisons, and DJS staff including Transition Education Specialists, Case Management Specialist Supervisors, and Regional Directors.

*C. Roundtable*

1. Quishaun Holmes shared that he was recently hired as the Market Money Manager for the Baltimore and Govanstowne Farmers' Markets, and encouraged vending and partnership inquiries. Please reach Quishaun directly for more information at [quishaunholmes6@gmail.com](mailto:quishaunholmes6@gmail.com).
2. October is Youth Justice Awareness Month (YJAM). The Coalition for Juvenile Justice will host events and training opportunities throughout the month. The Baltimore City Children's Cabinet - Youth Diversion Workgroup is planning events and opportunities for YJAM. The Emerging Leaders Committee is interested in collaborating with Baltimore City to promote YJAM-related events. Christina Drushel Williams will share more information with SAG members as available for promotion and participation. YJAM 2021 Information and registration page: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4926781>

VII. Upon a motion from Senator McCray and a second from Lynette Holmes, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 8, 2021 1:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m.

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Maryland Juvenile Justice Councils, Boards, and Resources:

<a href="#">SAG Member Resources</a>	<a href="#">Juvenile Justice Reform Council</a>	<a href="#">State Advisory Board for DJS</a>	<a href="#">SAG Member Board Book</a>
Member, JJRA, Training, and JJ Links	View video recordings of all meetings and final report	Description, roles, meeting information	Helpful information for new and existing SAG members